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AIR

SECURITY INFORMATION

EXTRA

08593

Chief, SR
Chief, EE
Chief of Station, Frankfurt

28 February 1952

REDSOX/LCHOMELY

Training and Dispatching of LCHOMELY Recruits.

1. Attached herewith is a CSCE memorandum regarding GIORDANO's point of view re the training and dispatching of LCHOMELY recruits (Attachment A). Attachment B is a report on the same written by GIORDANO.

2. Copies of Attachment A have been sent through ZACATUS channels.

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Distribution:

1 ME w/Att A
1 SM w/Att A and B
1 ME w/Att A
1 STUC w/Att A and B
1 COS w/Att A and B
1 CSCE/Ex Att A and B (Att: [] [])
2 BOE w/Att A and B

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Attachment A to *7167MA*

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OSOB MEMORANDUM

Subject: Training and Dispatching of LCHOWELLY Recruits.

Ref: RUMI 7114

1. The attached report (attachment B), written by Mario E. Giordano, outlines from his point of view the numerous possibilities previously enumerated in reference cable regarding the training and dispatching of the LCHOWELLY recruits. Although Giordano makes definite recommendations in this report he has given no indication of expecting to have a voice in any basic decisions concerning the grouping, training and dispatching of the recruits, as he understands that our Headquarters has facilities and information not available to him on which to base these decisions. Giordano's emphasis on communications training is characteristic as this was his war-time speciality. We are unable to give him any information about the feasibility of transmitting messages from the interior by wire photo. We would appreciate having the pertinent problems such as equipment, training, source of power, and susceptibility to DPing discussed by an informed communications expert so that we can answer Giordano's questions.

2. GIORDANO has been informed that a "school station" for monitoring agents' practice W/T messages is already established in Germany, a fact which reduces the number of W/T instructors he considers necessary for training. He has also been assured that Headquarters, although naturally unable to give us any such information, will take into consideration all knowledge of activities of other intelligence services in forming the plans for agent dispatch into the LCHOWELLY area. (Incidentally, GIORDANO was informed by JAYHAWK in 1950 that they had active operations in that area with facilities for exfiltration. GIORDANO did not believe this to be true.)

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SEARCH FOR PERSONNEL

a) For Tuition of Recruits.

Before drawing a detailed plan of work and calculation of staff the decision has to be taken:

- A) 1) whether the recruits will be used all together as one team,
- 2) or in groups of 2 to 3 men,
- 3) or as single agents. []
In the last case [] probably has to be let out from our plan because of his handicaps, - it would be too difficult for him to go as a single agent, he seems not to be fitting for such a task.
- B) Whether the recruits will be taken for tuition from Sweden:
 - 1) directly to Germany, or
 - 2) to Germany, but using different ways and the cover of "call off" of the enterprise, or
 - 3) to somewhere else, and
- C) Whether the agents will be equipped
 - 1) with W/T sets only, or
 - 2) with W/T sets and photo-radio transmitters.

From these decisions the number of the instruction-nests, which have to be installed, as well as the number and the qualification of the needed instructors depends gravely.

In case A-1 all men may be taught in one instruction nest. In case A-2 two such nests, and in case A-3 three to four instruction nests, and accordingly greater teaching staff will be needed.

- x) In case A-3 combined with B-1, we will lose besides [] too, because he will not let his mother alone in Sweden and will have no possibility to send her away.

Besides the mentioned instruction nests one special W/T school-station has to be installed, with which the recruits could start practical exercises in W/T traffic some 6 to 8 weeks after the start of the tuition. In case that there will be more than one instruction nests, two of these nests could be equipped and may work simultaneously as W/T School-stations, too. (The distance between the instruction nests and the school-stations must be chosen under due consideration of the radio-frequencies and the strength of the sets in use, so they will not lie in the "dead space" from where no traffic can be reached.)

Later, to the end of the tuition period, a possibility must be

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given to the recruits to practice the W/T traffic from approximately the same distance and with the same sets on which they will work out of their real working area. Therefore, too, W/T operators are needed.

The minimum need in instructors- W/T operators is: one instructor-operator for each nest, and one to three instructors in reserve and /or operating the school-station. Thus we need:

in case A-1 - 2 to 3, or 1 to 2^x) W/T instructors,

" " A-2 - 3 " 5, or 2 to 4^x) " "

" " A-3 - 5 " 7 or 4 - 6^{xx}) " "

x) C J may be used, simultaneously to his own tuition, as W/T instructor, too.

xx) In case A-3/B-1 three nests only will be needed.

If photo-radio~~x~~ will be used, then that subject will have to be taught in one or two nests only. That could be done by one instructor who will then have to move between these two nests, whereas the video branch of the school-station can be manned by American specialists. There is none Estonian instructor of photo-radio known in Germany. Mr. Mäekask from New York could come under consideration.

In case that no photo-radio~~x~~ will be used, and the recruits will be taught in Germany, the needed 1 to 6 W/T operators have to be found, screened, engaged and instructed according to our special needs, before they can start teaching the recruits. It would be good if these instructors were all, or at least the half of them were Estonians.

Which of the mentioned solutions has to be taken?

Let us try to find out which results can be obtained in different cases.

What can a single agent, equipped with a W/T set, give us? Let us try to think ourselves into the situation in which our agent will probably be ~~when~~ going to Estonia.

Take the easiest way (from the viewpoint of the agent), that the agent was dropped from an aeroplane on parachute in summer time, and that this fact was not discovered on the place immediately. At first, immediately after landing, he has to collect his parachute, to look for a suitable place where to hide it, and to do so, e.g. by digging it into the earth and masking the spot, so nobody will find it out soon.

Then he makes haste into a nearby forest and looks for a good place where he can hide his special and heavy equipment with which

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he can not go on long march. Doing this he has to be very careful; he has to take much signs, so he will be able to find and to recognize the place later, when he will need his equipment. Freed from his heavy load, he takes a forced march out of the area where he landed, so he could evade the danger of being ~~caught~~ in case that the surveillance had remarked something and a search will be ordered in that area.

All this has to be done during the few hours of a short summer night. The first day he must hide himself in forest and try to sleep, so he would be fresh in the next night, during which he has to find a place from where he could observe the people living and working in that area, without being remarked himself. That is needed for getting acquainted ^{with} and accustomed to the real situation, appearance, and the habits of the population, and, perhaps, to see and recognize some old relative or acquaintance.

Then, depending from the results of his reconnaissance, he will have to decide whether he may risk to contact some old relative or acquaintance whom he recognized, or not. If he finds that he can, and if he manages this with success, then his illegal life will get much easier for him, especially what concern the supply with food and with reliable information, as to the reliability of the other inhabitants and the danger ^{of} ~~quality~~ of different local functionaries. That would take him 2 to 3 days at least. During these days he probably will not have any possibilities to collect such informations which he would have to report ^{to} ~~us~~ immediately.

During the following days, already accustomed to the life, he will take some walks for collecting the special information for which he was sent out.

It will be, perhaps, one week after his jump that he will have collected some material for his first W/T report. He, then, will have to go back in the area where he left his W/T equipment. Back there he must get assured that the "air is clear", that he himself and his hidden equipment were not searched for, or if searched, the hiding place of his equipment was not found. Thus, assured about his immediate security, he starts composing the message and ciphers it. This done, he will dig out his equipment and erect the W/T set, and start the traffic at a stipulated time, and - we may receive the first sign of life and the first scraps of information from our agent.

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What could he tell us in that first message? Technically ~~taken~~ - it can not ^{be} much more than 200 to 300 words. Even such a message

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together with the call, will take him some 20 to 30 minutes of transmission time. That gives us some 15 to 25 lines of plain text typed on a folio. Even if our agent is a really very good and highly educated and instructed man, he can not give us too much in these 15 to 25 lines. If he is an average agent, then there will not be much in.

Our five men could give us altogether 75 to 125 lines, every transmitter having worked for some 20 to 30 minutes or many times so long if the message was not received by the home station on the first call.

During the following weeks, if not ~~captured~~ by the enemy, our agent could collect some more and better information, because he will be more acquainted with the life already, he will see and hear himself more, and perhaps he will have found some good living source of information, too.

But then he will have trouble in transmitting the information to us. He knows that every signal, which he transmits, may attract the vigil ear of the enemy radio-surveillance service. The longer will be his messages, and the more frequently he will send these, the more possibilities there are that his work will be remarked and his hiding place will be discovered. He, therefore, tries to value the information he has collected, for finding out what he has to transmit to us, and what to let aside. That makes him much trouble, and we will miss informations which could have interested us.

How long can such a man go on doing that work? How long will it be possible for his nerves? How long will he have the luck not being remarked and his bearings not being taken by the enemy w/T surveillance? This period of time will not be too long... To evade the last, he will change his working place often. That will cause much trouble and much additional danger to him, and that all will not help much, because his work once remarked, new bearings will be taken as soon as he will transmit his first message from the new place. And we will lose our man soon, him having given all what he could, his good will and his life, but we having received pretty few of the information which he in effect had collected already.

The same would repeat in a much worse issue if groups of two or more men will be sent out with one w/T set only.

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Would the situation be better if we will send out teams of two or three men, or even all 5 men together, and equip each team with W/T and photo-radio devices?

The very beginning of their work will be analogous to the work of a single agent. They will have to collect their parachutes and to hide these. There probably will be more than one parachute for each man, because additional parachutes will be needed for the special equipment which can not be carried on the men during the jump. The same must be done with the equipment, it must be hidden very carefully, and then the men must hurry away, as did our single agent.

Having collected the needed information about the local life (by hidden observation only), the men must find a place where to install their special devices, where they could start their technical inside work. They probably will have to build an underground hiding place, large enough to erect and to work with the instruments they will need on their work. It will take one week or longer before such a room will be ready and the devices erected, because the work has to be done very cautiously, mostly during the night time only. The amount of that work depends in a very high grade on the handiness of the devices in use.

Once ready for work technically, the real collecting and transmission of information may start. The difficulties in collecting information will be the same confronted by a single agent, but the information once collected, there will be no trouble in transmitting it. If the W/T agent was bound to his 200 - 300 words in a message, so the photo-radio agents do not know any limits here.

The first and simplest thing would be to buy a local newspaper and to transmit the whole contents of that paper in form of some two photographs during a short transmission period of a few minutes only. Nor is there any limit to the size of the agents' own reports. These may be written on many sheets of paper (ciphered or in open language, just depending on the devices in use), and sent over in form of a few photographs during a time which will be a fraction of the 20 minutes needed by the W/T agent for his 200 words.

It is evident that the advantage of use of video is enormous if compared with the usual W/T communication form. Different interesting books, which can be obtained behind the Iron Curtain but can not be taken out from there, may be radio-photographed. The same can be done with different original documents, not to speak of the value of an original photograph as an exact and reliable source of information.

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A team equipped with such technical devices can work in much greater safety and thus for much longer time than a single W/T agent. The results of work of such a team can be so enormously better than these of a corresponding number of usual W/T agents, that the greater expenses for special equipment, and for special devices for sure transport to the place of work, will be weighed up manifoldly.

There could be no special technical difficulties in solution solving these problems. Such devices have to be constructed already or if not, so their construction can be no problem for duly qualified specialists.

It seems that it is better to teach the photo-radio to our recruits in States ^{in the States} than in Germany. There are more special instructors available and there are better possibilities for practical training with these not quite simple, and perhaps not yet quite proved devices. Practical training with these devices on the approximate distances of later real work is of special importance. It would be rather difficult, if not quite impossible, to do that in Germany. Only having ~~given~~ our recruits such a careful training under competent leading of good specialists, with technically good devices, we may hope, as to the technical side of the enterprise, good results from our great stake.

It could look advantageous to send at first some single agents or a small group of agents with usual W/T equipment only, so they could do some preparatory work on place, and to send the real photo-radio men later to the place prepared by the avant-couriers. But it is just the very first enterprise which can hope for most success, because of the surprise caused by its novelty. Therefore it would be better to start with such ~~such~~ special group, or groups, from the very beginning, before having spoiled the area by some foregoing W/T work. Perhaps it would be good to ask the other organizations, who may have their agents in Estonia (other Americans, the British, the Swedish ???), to show us which areas in Estonia are not yet spoiled by their agents. It would be disastrous ~~for~~ to our special group to be launched into an area where some other agents are working already, and whose W/T work may have drawn the attention of the surveilleurs to that area already: our team could be discovered by a chance!

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My propo 1 is:

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- 1) Teach and send out our men in two groups, each equipped with photo-radio transmitter and W/T set, so they could send their information by the photo-radio, whereas receiving the advice by normal short wave W/T, using the W/T transmitter in emergency cases only, when the photo-radio will be out of use.

If there will be more than 2 or 3 men needed for handling the photo-radio (depends on the handiness of the devices to be used), then send all the five men in one team.

- 2) Take the men for tuition to the States.
- 3) Take all possible precaution for safeguarding the security of the enterprise. Break for that cause, as the first step, the contact of the recruits with to ^{Henry A. Winkler} letting him call off the enterprise. In connection with that cover let the recruits come to the States by different ways, some over Germany (cover: entering the American Army), some over Canada (cover: emigration to Canada).

Doing so we will need one or two Estonian W/T instructors only, one of whom simultaneously photo-radio instructor, both easier to be found in America than in Germany.

For the case that it will be decided to take the agents to Germany and to instruct them in W/T only, urgent steps have to be taken to find corresponding number of Estonian W/T operators in Germany.

To prevent further loss of time I find advisable that I contact some people in the Estonian Labor (or Guard) Companies in Nuremberg and Eschweg near Kassel, and in the Estonian Advisory Councils in Augsburg (American Zone) and in Augustdorf n. Detmold (British Zone), and perhaps also in Tübingen (French Zone), so I could make up a picture of the persons still available.

Such a contact would be needed not only for finding some W/T operators, but also for finding the people we could use in the Study- and Evaluation Center, where we will need for the beginning at least 2 or 3 persons, and in the second Radio-Recording Center, where two persons will be needed, if these centers will be established in Germany. As a cover for such my trip could serve my task to organize the collection of materials for the Estonian part of the history of world war II, on which I am working.

12 Feb. 1952

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